

Serial No.: 09/856,738  
Conf. No.: 3232

- 12 -

Art Unit: 2631

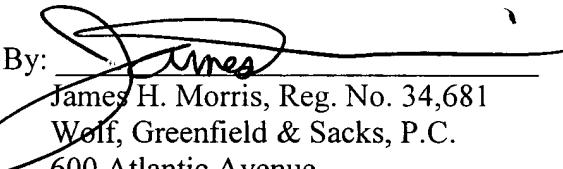
**REMARKS**

Claims 1-6 were previously pending in this application. By this amendment, Applicants have amended claim 6. New claims 7-54 have been added. As a result, claims 1-54 are pending for examination with claims 1, 28, 40, 47, and 51 being independent claims. No new matter has been added.

**CONCLUSION**

An early and favorable action is hereby earnestly requested.

Respectfully submitted,  
*Denis J.G. Mestdagh et al., Applicant*

By: 

James H. Morris, Reg. No. 34,681  
Wolf, Greenfield & Sacks, P.C.  
600 Atlantic Avenue  
Boston, Massachusetts 02210-2211  
Telephone: (617) 720-3500

Docket No. S1022.80315US00

Date: May 20, 2004

xNDDx